

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated December 23, 2003, claims 1, 7, 13, 19, 23 and 27 have been amended. Claims 1-32 remain in the case. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Office Action objected to the drawings, namely, Fig. 2, as not including reference signs 202, 204, 206 and 208 that are included in the specification.

Although reference signs 202, 204, 206 and 208 are already included in original FIG. 2, the Applicants have amended Fig. 2 to more clearly show elements 202, 204, 206 and 208 to overcome this objection. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,454). The Office Action rejected claims 7-9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Wang et al. The Office Action rejected claims 13-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Wang et al. The Office Action rejected claims 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Wang et al.

The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the amendments to the claims that more clearly defines the Applicants' invention and the arguments below.

Claim 1 recites in part "...specifying, by the sender/user, a level of feedback from the client/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and **attached documents**..." Next, claim 13 recites in part "...wherein the sender/user specifies a level of feedback from the client/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and **attached documents**..."

In contrast, Wang et al. do **not** disclose all of the Applicant's features of each of the claims. For example, Wang et al. simply disclose a system that "...allows users to send certified electronic messages." (see col. 6, lines 63-67; col. 7, lines 1-2). Although Wang et al. disclose notifying a sending account whether a message sent to the receiving account was read or deleted, Wang et al. is missing several elements of the claimed invention. Namely, Wang et al. does **not** disclose allowing the sender to

specify a level of feedback that includes "...determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents...", like the Applicant's claimed invention.

Accordingly, since Wang et al. is missing at least one element of the claimed invention, Wang et al. cannot anticipate the claims. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Next, the Office Action rejected claims 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wang et al. as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Mitsuya (JP-411312068A). The Office Action rejected claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wang et al. as applied to claim 7 and further in view of Mitsuya. The Office Action rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wang et al. as applied to claim 13 and further in view of Mitsuya. The Office Action rejected claims 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wang et al. in view of Mitsuya. The Office Action rejected method claims 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) using the same rationale as rejected claims 20-22. The Office Action rejected claims 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wang et al. in view of Mitsuya. The Office Action rejected claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wang et al. as in view of Mitsuya and Stork et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,710,816). Last, the Office Action rejected method claims 31-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) using the same rationale as rejected claims 28-29.

The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections based on the amendments to the claims and the arguments above and below.

Specifically, the cited references, when combined, are missing at least one material limitation of the Applicants' claimed invention. In particular, as discussed above, among other things, none of cited references, in combination or alone, disclose the Applicant's allowing the sender to specify a level of feedback that includes "...determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents...", like the Applicant's claimed invention. Although Mitsuya disclose

returning "...validity/invalidity of printing of the electronic mail..." to a transmitter, Mitsuya, in combination with the other cited references, clearly do not disclose determining if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents, like the Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, Wang et al. in combination with Mitsuya and Stork et al. are missing elements of the Applicant's claims, and thus, cannot render the claims obvious.

With regard to the dependent claims, because they depend from the above-argued respective independent claims, and they contain additional limitations that are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, these claims are also considered to be patentable (MPEP § 2143.03).

Thus, it is respectfully requested that all of the claims be allowed based on the amendments and arguments. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicants kindly invite the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at (818) 885-1575 if the Examiner has any questions or concerns. Please note that all correspondence should continue to be directed to:

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Respectfully submitted,
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Attachments

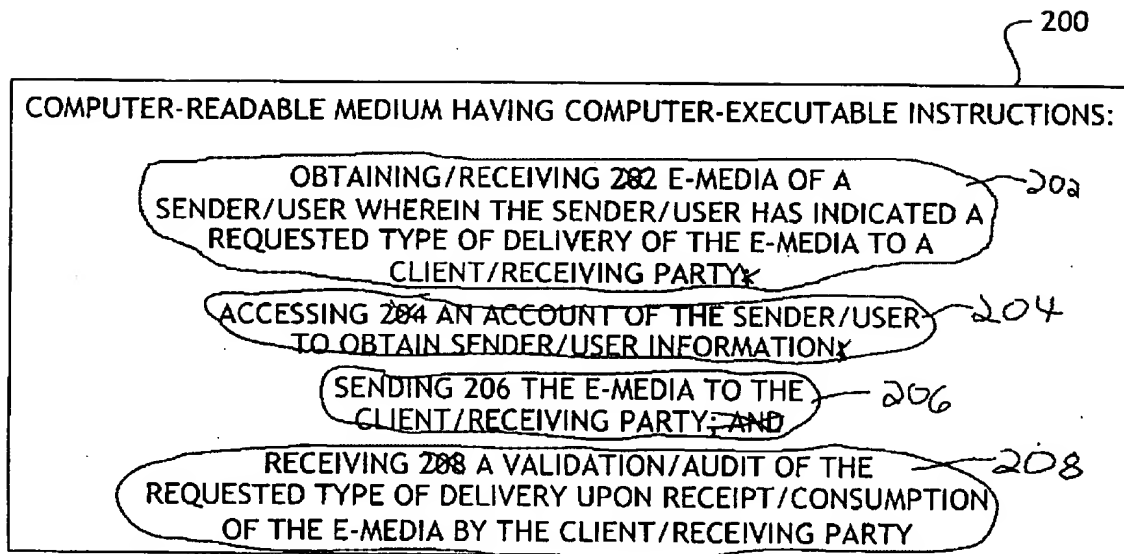


Figure 2